Hic incipit paruus Cha

Um aia aduertere quam hoies grauiter errare
When I aduerte in my remembraunce
And see how fele folkes erren greuously
In the wey of vertuous gouernaunce
I haue supposyd in myn herte that I
Ought to supporte and counceyl prudently
Them to be vertuous in lyuyng
And how they shal them self in honour bryngy
Igitur fili carissime docebo te quo pacto mores
Therfore my leue chyldy I shal now telle the
Herken me wel the maner and the guyse
How thy sowle inward shal acqueynted be
With the wes good and vertues in al wyse
Rede and conceyue for he is to dyspyse
That redyth ay and wote not what it ment

Suche tryng is no thyng but Wynde myspent
Itaque deo supplica / parentes ama
Pray thy god and prayse hym With al thyn herte
Fader and moder haue ay in reuerence
Loue hem Wel and dy le thou neuer to smerte
To here mennys counceyl but kepe the thens
Til thou be clepedy le clene Without offence
Sale We gladly to hym that is more digne
Than art thy self· thy place to hym resigne
Magistrum metue / rem tuam custodi
Drede thy mayster thy thynge lokie thou kepe
Take hede to thy houshold dy ay loue thy Wyf
Pleasaunt Wordes out of thy mouth shold crepe
Be not Iwus kepe thy helthis as thy lyf
Be temporat Wyth Wyn & le not exaessyf
Thy Wyfis Wordes take in noon auctorite
In foly slepe no more than nedyth the
Libros lege libros dilige quod legeris memento
In goodly bookies Whylom shalt thou rede.
And that thou redest in thy mynde thou shyt
Stere no Wyght to Wrath. lye not I the rede
Do Wel to god and he Wol the efte quyte
Be not Wicked nor to the Wyckied knyt
Stonde in the place of pletyng exercise
Deme the right and be counceyledy of the Wyse
Tuque lude / aleas fuge / pactum serua
Play With the toppe the dises loke thou esche We
Dispyse no man kepe euer thy helpe
Scorne neuer Wrecche than shalt thou neuer re We

Coueyte no mannys good ſpeke ſelfe atte feſte
Loke thy lengeaunce be alwey with the leeſt
Who hath won the good haue in remembraunce
Loue euery wyght and this ſhal the auaunce

Beholde my mayſter this litil treatiſe
Whiche is ful of wyt and ſapyence
Enforce the this matere to accompliſe
Thynke it is translated at your requeſte
Enwolke hit therfore in your aduertence
And deſyre for to knowe what cathonymente
Whan ye it rede let not your herte be thence
But doth as this ſayth with al your entente

Hic finis parui cathonis

Hic incipit magnus Chato

Deus est animus nobis ut carmina dicunt
Hic tibi precipue sit pura mente colendus
For thy that god is inwardly the wyt
Of man and geuyth hym vnderstondyng
As dytees sayen therfore shalt thou vnshyt
Thyn herte to thy souerayn lord & kyng
And prynapally aboue al other thyng
Geuyng hym laude, honour & reuerence
Which hath the endowed wyth excellence
Plus vigila semper ne compno deditus esto
Nam diuturna quies vicijs alimenta ministrat
A wake my chylde and loue no slogardye
In mocke slepe loke thou neuer delite
Yf thou purpose to worshyp for to stye
Longe slepe and slouthe to vyce doon norysshe
It maketh moy dul it makith hym vnperfite
It fosterith vp filthes of the flesshe
It palleth also and wasteth bloodes freshe
Uirtutem primam puta esse comprescere linguam
Proximus ille deo qui scit racione tacere
Trusteth wel also the first of vertues alle
Is to be stylle and kepe thy tonge in melle
Of tonge vntied mocke harme may falle
Leue me wel this is as the gospel telle
Who that can refrayne his wordes eschelle
And vseth with reason this is verrey dede
To god aboue that man is alder next

Spreñe rpugnando tibi tu contrarius esse
Conuenies nulli qui secum dissidet ipse
Aduyse the wel that thou neuer trauerse
Thyn owne sentence for therof sueth shame
Sey not one & efte the contrarye wherre
Suche rpugnaunce wol make thy worshyp lame
Where stedfastnes wol cause thy goody fame
For he shal neuer accorde with man ony lyue
That with hym self wyl ay rpugne andy stryue
Si vitam inspicias hoim si denique mores
Cum culpas alios nemo sine crimine viuit
Yf thou aduertise andy beholde aboute
The lyues of moy andy maners also
Bothe of thy self andy other the without
In myddel erthe thou shalt fynde who
That in some part nyo to vertue foo
Blame no man therfore yf ye doo a right
Sithe in erthe lakkes lyueth no wyght
Que nocitura tenes quamuis sint cara relinque
Vtilitas opibus preponi tempore debet
Yf thou suppose thyng that shal noye andy greue
Though they be dere andy right grete of price
Suche as suffreth not thy proffyt achieue
Yf thou lyst to be reckeby as the wyse
Absteyne the from suche thyng in al wyse
For it is more wysedom in sothfastnesse
To preferre prouffyt than suche richesse
Constans et leuis vt res exposcitat esto
Temporibus mores sapiens sine crimine mutat

Jt is a good lesson for the nones
A wyght to be tempryd with constance
And to be glad and mery eftsones
Not alwey sad ne light of cõtenaũce
A mãnis chere may hym ful oft auaũce
For at eche tyme as ꝑ thyng requyreth
So the wise man visageth & chereth
Nil temere vxori de seruis credc querenti
Sepe etenî mulier quẽ cõiunx diligit odit
Gyf no credence alwey to thy wyf
That for hir Jre & vnpacience
With sharper tonge than is swerde or knyf
Playneth on thy seruaunt though none offence
Thou fynde in hym lerne wele this sentence
The wyf wol hate and cause to smerte
Often hym that her husbondy loueth in herte
Cumque mones aliquem nec se velit ipse moueri
Si tibi sit carus noli desistere ceptis
And yf thou warne a wight of his forfete
Al though he grutcheth with frowhnyng countenaũce
And in his langage manace the and threte
Yet forbere thou not for al suche dysplesaunce
To teche hym to amende his gouernaunce
As thou kegan correcte that is a mysse
And that is a frendly eche J wysse
Contra verbosos noli contendere verbis
Sermo datur cunctis animi sapiencia paucis
Ayenst wordy folke ay ful of wynde
Stryue not at all it may not the profite

Suche rasshe folkis ben in concepcis blynde
The wytles worde auayleth not a myte
In fele wordes is often wisedam ful lyte
For vnto euery wyght is gyuen speche
And yet the wyse ful ofte ben to seche
Dilige sic alios vt sit tibi carus amicus
Sic bonus esto bonis ne te mala dampna sequãtur
Loue other men & haue them so in chere
That to thy self thy loue most extende
Lobe no persone be to the more dere
Than thyn estate for thenne thou shalt offende
And hurte thy self and other folke amende
But euer cherisshe other and loue hem so
That to thy self thou be founden no foo
Rumores fuge ne incipias nouus auctor haberi
Nam nulli tacuisse nocet nocet esse locutum
Tydynges nelbe that fleen as the wynde
Eschelbe my chylde wyth al thy dylygence
Be neuer besy nelbe tydynges to fynde
Suche nouelte causeth ofte offence
It is no wyt it is no sapience
It hurteth not a man to be in pees
But it doth harme to put his tonge in prees
Rem tibi promissam certam promittere noli
Rara fides ideo qr multi multa loquntur
Make no promyse of other mennys beste
Remembre wel that promyse is vnsure
But yf thou kepe thyn thy name sleest
To serue thy beste do thy besy cure

Trust not the word of euery creature
Sum mannys feyth is esy to breke
For many folkes thynke not as they speke
Cum te aliquis laudat iudex tuus esse memento
Plus aliis de te qm̃ tu tibi credere noli
With wordes fayr when fauel fedith the
Be thou not blynde for his fals flatrye
Lete thyn owne reason alwey thy Juge be
And in effect yf thyn astate be hye
Though fauel with his crafte wyl blynde thyn eye
In al thy lyf thou neuer gyf credence
More to thy self than to thy conscience
Officium alterius multis narrare memento
Atque alijs cum tu benefeceris ipse sileto
When thou seest another mans desert
As for his good dedes cõmendable
In euery place preuy or a pert
Suche a wyght with thy good word enable
And though he haue ben by the auaylable
Yet of thy good dede malie thou no bobaunce
And than shal other men thyn name enhaunce
Multorum cum facta senex et dicta resensus
Fac tibi succurrant iuuenis que feceris ipse
And yf thou lyue long an olde man shalt thou be
Age wol approche maugre who sayth nay
Then perseyue behold about and see
How aged folk ben turbyd with alle day
And so pouruey for thy self a say
In to stoupyng age when thou art crept

Thyng may the helpe that in thyn youthe Was kept
Ne aures si quis tacito sermone loquatur
Conscius ipse sibi de se putat omnia dici
Charge not al though thou see men spekie softe
Ne chaunge no chere for ofte it is ful let
In secret Wyse to spekie than crye on lofte
A man shold see al wey Where he were set
And after that so sholde he spekie or let
But to the suspect of harme it semeth
Men speke of hym he none other demeth
Cum tueris felix que sunt aduersa caueto
Non eodem cursu respondent vltima primis
Whan fortune hath yeuen the felicite
And set the on hygh than beware of a falle
Than sueth ofte suche sharpe aduersite
Fals fortune tourneth as doth a balle
In her trust haue thou no siliernes at alle
Hyr perilous playe turneth Whylom to grame
For the ende is Woo that began that game
Cum dubia et fragilis sit nobis vita tributa
In mortem alterius spem tu tibi ponere noli
Our brotel lyf is here so ful of doute
That in trey surete no Wyght may stonde
So sodenly crepen the sorowes oute
Al aboute this Worldy in euery londe
Of yonge and olde for euery Wyght is bonde
To deth therfore set not thyn affiaunce
In deth of hym that may the surviue perchaunce
Exiguum munus cum det tibi pauper amicus

Accipito placide plene laudare memento
A lityl yefte geuen with goody entente
Of thy frende that lyueth in pouerte
With right good chere ſuche yefte take and hente
Suppoſyng ay that as good Wylle hath he
And more than many men that richer be
Peyſe not the yefte ne ponder not the pryſe
Thentent is goody and that ſhal the ſuffyſe
Infantem nudum cum te natura creauit
Paupertatis onus placenter ferre memento
Sith nature that is thy firſt norice
Hath brought the hyder al naliyd and bare
Though thou neuer can richeſſe accomplice
But thou art holde alwey in pouertie ſnare
Yet no force make neuer to mocke care
Take praiently pouerte for the beſt
Richeſe is not of nature but of erthe encreſt
Ne timeas illam que vite eſt vltima finis
Qui mortem metuit quod viuit perdit idipſum
Though deth be the fyn of euery creature
And no wyght on lyue ſhal from hym eſcape
Yet drede not deth with ouer beſy care
To lyue on erthe it is but a Jape
Yf thou ſhalt alwey after deth ſo gape
Thynk wel to dye but modefye thy thought
Or ellis to lyue auayleth the right nought
Si tibi pro meritis nemo reſpondet amicus
Accuſare deum noli ſed tipſe coherce
For thy deſert yf no frende thanke the

I mene whan thou haſt won thy force and payn
To other folkes frendly for to be
Yf they can not gramercy to the ſayn
Withdraw the thyn hondꝫ & ſo thy ſelf refrayne
Blame not thy godꝫ for theyr vnfrendlyneſſe
But for ſuche men do afterwardꝫ the leſſe
Ne tibi quid deſit queſitus vtere parce
Ut que quod eſt ſerues ſemper tibi deſſe putato
Sith no ryche man that leuyth ony where
Yf he conſume his goodes al and waſte
But that pouerte ſhal greue ſore andꝫ dere
Therfore my chyld ſuche goodes as thou haſt
Let not to ſone out of thy hond berafte
Leſt than thy good hereafter wol the fayle
Holde that thou haſt it may the efte auayle
Quod preſtare potes ne dis pro miſeris vlli
Ne lis ventoſius dum vis bonus eſſe videri
Beleue no man a thyngꝫ to lene hym tWyſe
Andꝫ fayle hym onys that is but vilanye
Yf thou may lene do hit in frendly wyſe
Suche cheuyſaunce a frende loth to be wryꝫ
Of thy goodꝫ dedes clamour thou not ne cryе
Be not wyndy ner of wordes breme
Yf a goodꝫ man thou liſte appere andꝫ ſeme
Qui ſimilat verbis nec corde eſt fidus amicus
Tu quoque fac ſimile ſic ars deluditur arte
And yf thou fynde the ſone of doubleneſſe
The fals diſſymylour yf thou eſpye
With peyntedꝫ wordes andꝫ herte ful of falſneſſe

Thou maist in no wyse better blere his eye
Than to serue hym with his owne trecherye
With wordes fayr and frendly to departe
Mene thou the same & arte begyle by arte
Noli vies blando nimium sermone probare
Fistula dulce canit volucrem dum decipit auceps
Preue thou neuer a man by ouer paynted speche
For vnder fayr wordes is ofte annexid gyle
The wordy is gay but frendshyp is to seche
No it is sayd suche crafte is in this Ile
Yet some thynke ylle When they their tunges fyle
The whistelyng fouler maketh mery songe
And so the byrdes begyleth he amonge
Cum tibi sint nati nec opes tunc artibus illos
Instrue quo possint inopem defendere vitam
When so is that thou hast goten chyldren
Loke in her yongth than enforme hem so
In some craft & mister that they may therin
Lerne to gete her lyuyng and to deffende also
Her lyf Whiche euer needeth & that they vnto
Vertu may atteyne for that he no craft can
Ofte tyme nedyth & is in daunger of euery man
Quod vile est carum quod carum vile putato
Sic tibi nec cupidus nec auarus noscaris vlli
Haue thys conceyte for it is ofte sene
Thyng dere bought ful ofte late of price
And thynges that litel of value ben
In tyme comyng may to grete derth aryse
Remembre Wel this and ay it aduertise

Thus ſhalt thou leſe the name of chyncherye fleme
And other moy ſhal the no nygard deme
Que culpare ſoles ea tu ne feceris ipſe
Turpi eſt doctori cum culpa redarguit ipſum
Adiuyſe the wel let reaſon be thy guyde
Whan other folkes thou art aboute to blame
That ſuche defaulte in the be not eſpyed
For yf it be than ſhalt thou haue the ſhame
A mannys honour ſuche thyng wol reclame
It is ful foul when a man wol teche
Yf that his dedes ageynſt his wordes preche
Quod iuſtum eſt petito vel quod videatur honeſtum
Nam ſtultum eſt petere quod poſſit iure negari
Loke thy deſyre be groundyd of right
And than that it neuer trauerſe honeſte
For as ofte tymes as ony worldly wyght
Deſireth more than right or equyte
Than may his requeſt ſone refuſyd be
And it is cleped uyerte and grete folye
To aſke of te that right wol ay denye
Ignotum tibi tu noli preponere notis
Cognita iudicio conſtant incognita caſu
Chaunge not a frende that thou knoweſt of olde
For ony newe in truſt that thou ſhalt fynde
A better than he but in thy handes thou holde
Hym that hath ben to the frendely and kynde
For ſuche eſchaunges ben ofte ful blynde
The ſemeth thou knoweſt neuer a dele
To knowe a trusty frende it is caſuele

Cum dubia in certis versetur vita periculis
Pro lucro tibi pone diem quicunqz laboras

Sith that mannys lyf is ofte ful of myserie
Whilom in myrthe and after in myschyef
Now in the valey & now in the hylle on hye
Now is may pour and after by richys in relieue
The shynyngh morwe hath ofte a stormy eue
To this poleie take hede at the laste ende
Haue lucre for thy labour or that thou wende

Uincere cum possis interdum cede sodali
Obsequio quin dulces retinentur amici

Though thou may ouercome and haue the victorye
Of thy frende or felowe yet ay forbere
Refrayne thy self and be not haute or hye
Iwous handes ful euyl do greue and dere
Where easy softenesse frendes may conquere
For by good dedes set in lowlynesse
Mey ley to gyder knyt in frendlynesse

Ne dubites cum magna petas impendere parua
Hijs etenim rebus conuungit gracia cuncos

The kymytour that vysiteth the wyues
To wyse ynough of hym a may may lere
To yeue nedlis pynnes girdeles and knyues
The craft is goody thus doth the wyse frere
Yeueth thyngh smale for thynge that be dere
Yf thou receyue euer yeue thou sumwhat ageyn
And that wol ay norisshe loue in certeyn

Litem inferre caue cum quo tibi gracia uincta est
Ira odium generat concordia nutrit amorem

Toyle not ne ſtryue wyth hym that is thy frende
Be ware of that make neuer thy frende thy foo
A toylous man may frendſhyp breke and ſhende
Thiſe baratours that ben myſreuled ſo
Interupte hem ſelf and wrappen in moche woo
For wycked wrath engendreth but hate
Where as good accorde noriſſhe loue algate
Seruorū ob culpam cum te dolor vrget in iram
Ipſe tibi moderare tuis vt parcere poſſis
Whan thy ſeruaunt thou takeſt in defaut
Though he can not his negligence excuſe
Yet in thyn yre make not to fiers a ſaute
But wyth thy male talent take truſe
So ſhalt thou fynde eaſe this fete yf thou vſe
Reule thy paſſyon and ay by ſuche meſure
That thou ſaue hem that ben vnder thy cure
Quem ſuperare potes interdum vince ferendo
Maxima etenim morum ſemper pacientia virtus
Sufferaunce doth eaſe was ſayd long a goo
Suffre thou and haue al thyn entent
Thaugh al thou mayſt ouer yet do thou not ſo
Conquere by ſufferaunce and be pacient
But for to folowe cruelte neuer conſent
For it is clepyd a vertue wyth excellence
A wyght to lyue in humble pacience
Conſerua potius que ſūt iam parta labore
Cum labor in dampno creſcat mortalis egeſtas
Be not to ſkant nor be not to prodygal
Conſerue thy thynges goten wyth treuth labour

Jt is ful fayr to be called liberal
But ay eschewe waste and be not surfetour
Consume not al thy tresour in one hour
Whan of thy labour riseth none auayle
Nedes pouerte must the in haste assayle
Daplilis interdum notis cæris et amicis
Cum fueris felix sæpe tibi proximus esto
Be thou not like senola for he wolde ete
With euery man and at his feste hym fede
But neuer no man myght taste of his mete
Nor no wight to hym come but he to al men yede
Be fre of thy mete but look that largesse lede
The no ferther than thou may easly atteyne
Be euer thyn owne frende thus caton sayth certeyne
Talie hede sir and see how holsomly this clerk
Entreteth men with vertuous doctryne
The first parte of thys compendious werke
In worshyp how they shal ful clerely shyne
Guydyng to renewe straight as a lyne
Whos preceptis to obserue yf that ye lyst
And to his counceyl your hertes to enclyne
Right in your age ful wele it shal be wyst
The vertuous forme that men shal forth conuey
Lo in this lyf as bridel doth a best
That man do not erre here in thys perilous wey
Stablisshyng hym as doth a stedfast arest
And as sillers guydes that men worthyest
Mannys leuyng here to set in gouernaunce
This sage cathon putteth in remembraunce

Si forte velis cognoscere cultus
Virgilium legito quod si mage noscere labores
Herbarum vires macer tibi carmine dicet
Yf thou lust my chyld set thy hertly delit
Of erthe to knowe the tylthe and the culture
And yf thou wolt be of knowleche parfit
Why some is erable & some eke pasture
Why some is frosshe lyke flowres of picture
I counceyl the to studye sadly for a whyle
In the laureat poete grete Virgile
Si romana cupis et punica noscere bella
Lucanum quetas qui martis prelia dicit
And thou haue desirous frosshe corage
To here of womayns nobyl worthynes
How they seynquysshed them of cartage
And many other through manly prowesse
Than rede lucan ful wel can he expresse
Who bare hym best in toun and also in felde
And who dyd merueyles vnder martes shylde
Si quis amare libet vel discere amare legendo
Naconem petito sin autem cura tibi hec est
And who that lust elle of loueres for to rede
And in what wyse hem self for to auaunce
As in that craft naso can teche hym for to spede
For some loue song, harpe, pipe, and daunce
Some in redyng and other thyngy of plesaunce

Some louen couertly elle and luſt not be eſpyed
And ſome holdy be knowen thus wayeth oute
Ut ſapiens viuas audi que dillere pollis
Per que remotum vicijs deducatur cunctis
But yet my leſ chylde yf that in auenture
Thyn herte be yeuen to noon ſuche maner thynge
Or that it be not vnto thy pleſure
That virgyl macer lucan or naſo doth bringe
Yet that thou may be wyſe after my thy lyuynge
Yf thou luſt to me to yeue audyence
I ſhal ſhewe the doctryne of ſapyence
Ergo ades que ſit ſapiencia diſce legendo
Therfore my chylde come nere to me and lere
And I ſhal the ſhewe the verray treſure
Of ſapyence yf the lyſt to herken and here
And elle how thou ſhalt in good eſtat endure
And lede thy lyf holy after goddis pleſure
Therfore apreſſe and lere thy redyng
To be a man ay vertuous of leuyng
Si potes ignotis etiam prodelle memento
Utilius eſt regno meritis adquirere gnatos
Ther is no wyght that ferther may arryue
Of thy good dede than the ſtraunger may
Make hym ay good chere & ſhewe hym deſporte
And he ſhal wyth honour beter the this no man
For the vnknowen it proffyteth ſumtyme aſſay
Frendes y nowe to haue it is a better thyng
Than is frendles ony man to be a kyng
Nitte arcana dei celum inquirere quid ſit

Cum sis mortalis que sunt mortalia cura
Of goddis mystoye and ehe of his worchyng
Make neuer my chyldy to fer inquyraunce
It is foly ony man to muse on suche thyngy
Dispute thou neuer vpon thy goddes purueaunce
For al thyngy must be vnder his gouernaunce
Andy sith thou art man clady ny mortalite
Dispute thou of thyng suche as mortal be
Linque metum lete nam stultum ē tēpte in cuum
Qui mortem metuit amittit gaudia vite
The drede of deth that is inordynate
I mene to drede it ay and neuer to cese
Beware of that I counceyl the algate
For this is certe as the gospel doutles
Who that dredeth deth is alwey myrthles
Whan drede of deth ony man so agrudgeth
The wasteth his tyme & ay his lyf abredgeth
Incertis de re incerta contendere noli
Impedit ira animum ne possit cernere verum
For thyng that is to the vncertayn
Whan thou art wroth loke neuer that thou stryue
But first thou oughtest to knowe the mater playn
For there is no persone onely on erthe alyue
But that he fro hym self is also blyue
As he is wrath hath kyndely hym on fyre
And than can he not deme the trouth for Ire
Fac iumptū properē cū res deliberat ipsa
Dandum cito ē aliquid cū tempus postulat aut res
As tyme requyreth so make ay thyn expence

Mesure thyn handy ehs after the prophecie
Of thyng of tyme and also of the pecunie
So that thou spende nomore than nedyth the
And that spende look that thyn herte be fre
A man sholdy doo cost and make his spendyng
Consyderyng the tyme & eke of his costis awardyng
Quod nimium est fugito. paruo gaudere memento
Tuta magis puppis modico que flumine fertur
To mocke is nought of ony maner thyngy
The mene is goody and most comendable
That may standeth surest here in this lyuyngy
With mene astate that holdeth hym greable
Oplente and pouerte to gadre be not suffrable
For than is the shyp in the see moost surest
What tyme the flood is moost demurest
Quod pudiat locaos prudens celare memento
Ne plures culpant id quod tibi displicet vni
Yf thou knowe ought that may turne in to shame
Kepe it secret and for no thynge it bewrye
Be neuer to besy suche thyngy to proclame
Or publisshe as thou knowest Wol vrpye
Make not alle men to gaury on it and crye
Lest that men dampne the to other folkes vnknowe
For suche fals demers thou mayst fynde y nowe
Nolo putes prauos vltes peccata lucrari
Temporibus peccata latent et tempore patent
Yf thou espye and see or preeyue a forfaiture
And elle a shrewe of mysgouernaunce
Truste wel that sumtyme shal come ay cure

Whan for his dedes he shal suffre penaunce
A cursed dede axeth wreche and vengeaunce
Though wyckydnesse for the tyme be kept secre
Yet atte last it wol dyscouerdy be

Corporis exigui vires contempnere noli
Consilio pollet cui vim natura negauit

Though sumtyme nature hath ben vnkynde
And geuyth a man to be of smal stature
Yet remembre my chyldy and haue in thy mynde
That thou neuer dispyse that creature
For god may sende hym fortune and lone lyfe
And ofte they be wyth goody counceyl alieds
To whom nature hath grete strengthe denyed

Quum sacris non esse parem tibi tempore cede
Victorem a victo superari sepe videmus

Whan thy lap is to trauerse and haue a do
With hym that is nought egal to thy myght
Thyn vttermest power shewe not suche vnto
Lest that eftesones he haue the in lyke plight
For it is often seen in batayl and in fyght
Fortune chaungyth ofte wythin one our
And he is sconfytedy that was erst victour

Aduersus notum noli contendere verbis
Lis minimis verbis interdum maxima crescit

Of bronde smale be made fyres grete
withdrawe the brondes the fyre shal decrece
Agayn the hyer lorde thou not plete
With wordes fele for wordes dyscorde thy pece
The man is wyse that can of wordes cece

For this is as truly soth as god gaf lyf
That wordes smale breden ful mocke stryf
Quod deus intendit noli prequirere sorte
Quod statuit de te sine te deliberat ipse
Dele not with magyke nor with sorcerye
In godes hande is al fortune and fate
Be not about to calke by destenye
Whether thou be myserous or fortunate
Let god alone in hym is al thyn estate
For what hym lyst of the to purpose
Withouten the he can ful wel dyspose
Inuidiam nimio cultu vitare memento
Que si non ledat tamen hanc sufferre molestum
Be ware ay of envye with tatches felle
Within thyn herte look ay that she ne rest
For it is one of the chyef paynes of helle
When she soiourneth with in a mannys brest
Than brennyth fenyx in her owne nest
And than she may none other man myscheue
Yet ethna cesith not her self to greue
Esto forti animo cum sis dampuatus inique
Nemo diu gaudet qui iudice vincit iniquo
Enforce thyn hert with manly sufferance
Though that fals Jugement ageyn the procede
Be thou not abasshed in word ne countenaunce
For ofte tymes the fals oppressour may rule & lede
The lalbe but truste me wel withouten drede
Longe to reioyse achieue he may not
Which by menes vnrewe his goodes so gat

Nec te collaudes nec te culpaueris ipse
Hoc faciunt stulti quos gloria vexat iamis
Thy self also loke thou not preyse
Nor dispreyse but let thou other men alone
Alwey after prudence thy wordes prise
For thyn auaunt honour shalt thou gete none
But haue a mok as sone as thou art gone
A man to preyse hym self as sayth the scole
Or dispreyse moche is tokey of a fole
Litis preterite noli maledicta referre
Post inimicitias iram meminisse malorum est
Wrath of olde that sholdy le kepte out of mynde
Be thou not about to make it on lyue
But the enuyous hath ay a tatche of kynde
Suche malyce my chyldy loke thou neuer reuyue
For suche malyce of olde wrath maketh a stryue
And who remembreth olde enemyte
A wyckedy man forsothe is he
Utere quelitis modice cum sumptus habundat
Labitur exiguo quod partum est tempore longo
When it is tyme of cost andy grete expence
Be waar of waste & spende ay by mesure
Who that to kepe or spende hath no difference
Maketh his goodes may not longe endure
For the olde prouerbe sayth mesure is tresure
Remembre that sone thy goodes may slippe a way
That before were goten in many a sondry day
Incipiens esto cum tempus poscitat aut res
Stulticiam similare loco prudencia sūma est

It is no Wysdom a man alwey to be sage
But somtyme to be nyce and eyn folye
Who that hath this fete shal fynde avauntage
Whan tyme and thyng desireth that espye
And than dyssymyle that is grete poleie
For sumtyme to be vnWyse by apparence
Amonge the Wyse is clepyd hys prudence
Luxuriam fugito simul et vitare memento
Crimen auaricie nam sunt contraria fame
The fylthy flesh meuyng the festyal
That fyghteth ay ageyn the soule Wythin
By force of hyr attisement liberal
Eschewe my chyld and kepe the from her gynne
That art and grace ben set ful fer a tWyn
And eschewe ay of auarice the Wicked fame
Thise tWo they ben that causen euyl name
Noli tu quedam referenti credere semper
Exigua ē tribuenda fides q; multi multa loquuntur
Beleue thou not lightly in euery Wyghtes salWe
For some reporten thynge al other Wyse
Than it Was euer thought or don ē salWe
And some haue it also of custume andy of guyse
To fede folkis With flatering and lyes
Therfore geue lytel trust to suche feyr spekyng
For many folkes spekie vnterWe thyng
Quod potui peccans ignoscere tu tibi noli
Nam nullum crimen vini set culpa libentis
Yf thou surfete in drynk forgete thou not that
Auyse the Wel efte thou come not in that snare

Withdraw the thyn honde fede not thy thwte to fat
Drynke that ſuffyſeth the & ellys loke thou ſpare
To moche drynke maketh men of wyt ful bare
And yet the wyn therof is not to blame
To blame is the drynker that maketh hym lame
Concilium archanum tacito cōmitte sodali
Corporis auxilium medico cōmitte fideli
To thy trusty frende that is secret to the
Shewe thy counceyl and thy nede bewreye
For a trusty frende is the cheſt of pryuyte
But it is grete hap ſuche frendes to eſpye
Trye out one among al a companye
And of thy body betake thou al the cure
Vnto ſuche a leche that is truſty and ſure
Succellus indignos noli tu tetre moleste
Indulget fortuna malis vt ledere pollit
With thy ſelf agreue the neuer to ſore
Though thyng amys ſumtyme betyde
Diſmay the not in beſy wyſe therfore
For thyn aduenture nedes thou muſt abyde
Fortune may not alwey be on thy ſyde
With harmes to greue ay in wayte lieth ſhe
To reue men welthe honour and proſperite
Proſpice qui veniunt tibi casus eſſe ferendos
Nam leuius ledit quicquid preuidimus ante
In thyn owne ſelf compaſſe aboute ay before
Thyng to perceyue that after wol falle
It noyeth not nor greueth half ſo ſore
That is afore ſeen as other thyng ſhalle

Sodeyn chaunces diseasith most of al
It hurteth ay lesse and is in better plight
Where a man prudently can haue a fore sight
Rebus in aduersis animum submittere noli
Spem retinere spes vna animum non morte reliquit
Whan dyuerse thynges trauerse thy entent
And thou art Wrapped in aduersite
For Wanhope looli thou be not lost ne shent
Lete neuer dyspayr thy Wyt bereue the
But abyde the tyme that better shal be
Hope is she that shal make the a seth
Hope leueth not a man tyl may leue the breth
Rem tibi quam noscas aptam dimittere noli
Fronte capillata post hec occasio calua
Whan men proffre thay is tyme to receyne
Take ay thyng Whyle they ben in season
Many proffre nolt that after Wol repryne
For that is plente nolt Wol after Wardy be geson
Therfore take ay in tyme for so counceyleth reson
For the balled hedy Was sumtyme ful of heres
Whiche is nolt bare Wythoute rasure or sheres
Quod sequitur spectа quod imminet ante videto
Illum imitare deum qui partem spectat vtramq;
Prouyde thy self and haue delyberaunce
By likly coniecture What may betyde
Aduertise my chylde in thy remembraunce
Afore and after aboute on euery syde
Folowe that god Wol and bere hym be thy guyde
Whiche hath al thyng oonly in his gouernement

Fortune feture & pouste & al that is presente
Forcior vt valeas interdum parcior esto
Pauca voluptati debentur plura saluti
Yt is a tatche of a deuouryng honde
To receyue superfluyte and to ete excesse
Tyl his receyt ageyn from hym refonde
Contente thy nature and fle ay from gredynesse
Foule lustes kepe ay vnder fote and represse
Fede not thy lust with al that she wol craue
Yf that in helth the list thy lyf to haue
Sic tibi precipue quod primum est cura salutis
Tempora ne culpes cum sint tibi causa doloris
Take good hede ete of thyn owne astate
To reule thy body wel with good dyete
In tyme but loke thou be not at debate
Though thyn owne reule and surfete
Though sekenes and sorowe haue yeue the ay bete
The tyme is good and no diesmale ther is
But yf men it make for that they doon a mys
Somnia ne cures nam meus humana q̃ optat
Dum vigilat sperat per somnium cernit idipsū
Drede thou no dremes so seyth deutronomye
For ofte they be causedy of dyuers complexion
Some of ymagynacions & many a nyce fantasie
Or ellis of blood or of superflue replecion
For dremes ben ofte deceit and fals illusion
Whan they be waking they desyre and thynke
Vpon that thyng they dreme whan they slynke
Judicium populi nunquam contempseris vnus

Ne nulli placeas dum vis contempnere multos

Whan that a multitude hath yeue a decree
Or concludeth ought ageyn thyn entent
Trauerse yet neuer ageynst the comente
For yf thou do thou shalt be sore shent
Dispise thou not alone the peoples Jugement
Jn aduenture thou please of hem not ooy
Whiles thou woldest trauerse hem euerichoon
Museth a Whyle What al thyse maters mene
Abyeth sir and goo no ferther yet
For to rede theym vaileth not a bene
To no man but he the kernel vnknet
Therfore al your herte and al your mynde vnshet
And loke What lieth vnder the boystous rynde
And J dar say of Wysdam and of Wyt
Plente and foyson therin shal ye fynde
Refresheth your spyrites With this holsom diete
That fosterth vertues and kepith a lyue
To your persone me thynketh ful mete
For to receyue suche a ioyful nutretyf
Whiche your astate shal ay preserue in lyf
Jn grete honour and kepe you from noyaunce
Out of the daunger of vices infectif
Yf ye Wyrche after thys ordenaunce
And in especial looli that your rede
May bere trewe Wytnes and testifye
The maters that ye beholde and rede
Lokie hem With your hert as Wel as Wyth your eye
And than dar J sey sum What ye shal espye

In thys werk that shal mēue your corage
Wherfore your herte your eye and your spirite applie
Your self ay to welle after thyse dedes sage

Incipit liber tercius

¶ Oc quicūque velis carmen cognoscere lector
Hec precepta teres que tūt gratissima vite
Lo what wyght that lusteth hym for to rede
In this my dyte sum what shal he fynde
Wherwyth he may his sowle fostre and fede
With vertue and it from vyces vnbynde
Come nere my chyld therfore and haue in mynde
Suche doctryne in thyn herte to here alwey and lere
As to thy self here after shal be leef and dere
Instrue preceptis animum ne dilcere celle
Nam sine doctrina vita est quasi mortis ymago
Mannys sowle resembleth a nelwe playn table
In whiche yet appereth to sight no picture
The philosophre sayth wythouten fable
Right so is mannys sowle but a dedly fygure
Vnto the tyme she be reclamedy wyth the lure
Of doctryne & so gete hyr a good habyt
To be expert in cunnyng science and proffyt
Interpone tuis interdum gaudia curis
Ut possis animo quemuis sufferre laborem
Who that lakketh rest may no whyle endure
Therfore amonge take ease and dysporte
Delite the neuer in grete besynesse and care

But that whilom thou mayst also resort
To playes recreacyons and al other comfort
Than shalt thou better labour atte longe
Whan thou hast myrthe thy besynesse amonge
Cum recte viuas nr aures verba malorum
Arbitrij nostri non ē quod quisque loquatur
Yf thou lyue Justly ay kepe vp right
Neuer declynyng for mede lucre drede or fauour
Truly than standest thou in a ful holsom plighte
Though men maligne the with wordes of rigour
Yf thou lyue thus thy good lyf is thy tour
We may not let the peple to gaure and crye
But do yet wel though they mysseye or lye
Productus teltis saluo tamen ante pudore
Quantumcunq; potes scelatu crimen amici
Sone yf thou be called the soth to testifye
Euermore sauyng thy worshyp and honeste
Thy frendes trespas be not about to bewrye
Where as no shame therof may growe to the
This requyreth ay good frendshyp parde
In wele and the trewe benevolence
Betwyx folkes is frendshyp in assistence
Sermones blandos blelos q; cauere memento
Simplicitas viri fama est fraus ficta loquendi
Make besy watche kepe wel thy sowle al gate
Beholde wysely about e spye thy couert trayne
Whan that fals fauel knokketh at thy yate
He menyth gyle though outward he fayr feyn
For he can anoynte lothe thyn eres tweyn

With the oyle of plesaunce in ful grete foyson
But yet vnder that kepe the wel from this poyson
Segniciem fugitu que vite ignauia fertur
Nam cū aīmus languet consumit inercia corpus
Slouth slogardye and dul ydelnesse
And lachesse that causith to be negligent
Enforce the ay to eschewe with al thy besynesse
For ydel sowle makyth thy body shent
Treuly there is in erthe no gretter argument
For to conclude thy mortal body vnapte
Than the soule in ydelnes to be wrapte
Comoda multa feras linautem spreueris illud
Non me scriptorem sz te neglexeris ipse
Enprynte my techyng in thy soule stedfast
And ful profitable thou shalt it fynde
Forsake it not ner fro thyn herte it caste
For yf that thou exclude out of thy mynde
This lesson thou art ful bareyn and blynde
From vertues and therfore wyte not me
Sithen thy defaulte my sone is than in the
Alterius dictum aut factū ne carpseris vnquam
Exemplo simili ne te derideat alter
It is ful hard to please euery wyght
Displese the of no maner dedes ner them lak
Ner theyr wordes neither for euen so right
As thou displesedy them behynde thy bak
Right so wol men make the a mok and a knak
For the contrarie though men hady it sworn
The scorner shal be guerdoned ay with scorn

Quod tibi sors dederit tabulis suprema notato
Augendo serua ne sis quem fama sequatur

Whan thy last sort that men calley fate
Is good and plesaunt after thyn entent
This mene I lo Whan thou art fortunate
Recorde al thy goodes that god hath the sent
And suffre hem not vtilesly to be spent
For than of a Wastour thou shalt haue the name
For grete riot Wol cause thy feble fame

Cum tibi diuice suprant in fine senecte
Munificus facito viuas non parcus amicis

In to grete age What tyme that thou art crept
And hast richesse prosperite and grete habundaunce
Be liberal thā of the goodes that afore thou hast kept
Thenke Wele thou hast ynogh ꝛ sufficiaunce
Lete neuer thy good of the haue gouernaunce
But gouerne ꝛ departe it ay Wyth thy frend
For Whan thou goost hens it may not Wyth the wende

Vtile consilium dominus ne dspice seruu
Nullius sensū si prodest contempseris vnquam

Grace is yeuen to many in many sondry Wyse
Sōme haue Wysedam ꝛ sōme haue eloquence
The poure folkes also sōme tyme be ful Wyse
A seruaunt sumtyme may be elis of grete sapyence
Though al be he had in litel reuerence
Rebarde his Wyt yf it be Worth the Whyle
For vertu is hyd vnder many ay habit vyle

Rebus et in sensu si non est quod sint ante
Fac viuas contentus eo quod tempora prebent

This worldes welthe ebbyng and flowyng ay
At no certeyn is like as vanysshe'apryle
Though thou haue losse thou shalt not the dysmay
Be content with that thou hast for the whyle
Some may there is that hath neither crosse ne pyle
Now in his warde & yet right good aduenture
Is hym ful nygh no may may knowe his hre

Uxorem fuge ne ducas sub noie doctis
Nec vetuere velis si cepit esse molesta

Wedde not a wyf for hyr enheritaunce
For she wol cast it often in thy berdy
And yf she be noyaunt & ful of greuaunce
Constreyne hir neuer to abyde in thy yerdy
Of chastysement it is a surfidy swerdy
To kepe suche one that wol ay a twyte
For he is at ease that of suche ony is quyte

Multorum disce exemplo que facta sequaris
Que fugias vita nobis est aliena magistra

Of other men thou shalt thy myrrour make
Conforme the to that, that most men approue
What thou shalt do & what thou shalt forsake
A better fete maist thou not contreue
Than to other mennys deeds releue
In al that pertayneth to thy techyng
Make of other men a rule of thy leuyng

Quod potes id tempta operis ne pondere prelluas
Succūbat labor et fraudera temptata relinquas

Attempte no thyng that surmounteth thy myght
Ner that to finysshe thou mayst not achyeue

For than ſtandeſt thou ſoule in thyn owne ſight
Ouer his power What may that luſteth meue
With ſhame his werke muſt nedes take leue
It is folye a man ſuche werkes to begynne
Whiche to perfourme his power is to thynne
Quod noſci factum non recte noli ſilere
Ne videare malos imitare velle tacendo
Lawe preſumeth that What may kepyth ſtylle
The cryme of oon that hath woon grete offence
And dyſcouerydy hit not he is than ille
As the crymynous for kepyng of his ſilence
Therfore my ſone brynge it in to audyence
That thou perceyueſt not Wele doy is
Leſt for ſilence men deme of the amys
Judicis auxilium ſub iniqua lege rogatu
Ipſe etenim leges cupiunt vt iure regantur
Whan the lawe is ſtrayt and rigorous
Entrete ay the Juge to do the fauour
Enclynyng hym for to be gracious
For ay egal Juge may thy cauſe ay ſocour
And yet the lawe ſhal be his gouernour
Whiche oweth ſumtyme to modefye
As in cas he may a poynt eſpye
Quod merito pateris pacienter ferre memento
Cunqz tuus tibi ſis ipſū te iudice dampna
What peyne thou ſuffrſt for thy deſert
Receyue it ay Wele in grace and paience
Al though thy treſpas be preuy and couert
Yet Whan thou Weyes it in thyn aduertence

That thou art blemyssshed in thy conscience
With in thy self make thou any arbytrement
Demyng thy self in thyn owne Jugement
Multa legas tacito perlectis perlege multa
Nam miranda canunt sed non credenda potte
Myspende thou no tyme neuer for lachesse
But whylom rede in bookes olde and wyse
Rede and reporte eke with grete attentyfnesse
By redyng to clinyng a man may ryse
Than rede my sone and clinyng accomplise
Thyse poetes writen thynge of grete meruayle
And eke of smale credence ofte this is no fayle
Inter conuiuas tac lis sermone modestus
Ne dicare loquax dum vis vrbanus haberi
Euermore amonge frendes sittyng atte feste
Be thou curteys and demeure of thy langage
Who that speketh most is not counted wyseste
For of flesh and bone nature hath made a cage
The tonge to kepe that she be not outrage
Than yf thou wylt be preferred of nature
Refrayne thy tonge with al thy besy cure
Coniugis irate noli tu verba timere
Nam lacrimas struit insidias dum femina plorat
Some women wepen of pure feminite
When otherwyse they can not theyr entent
Achieue but yet be ware of suche nyce pyte
Thy manly reson for that be not blent
For suche wepyng thy herte ought neuer relent
Some women of kynde be euer wepyng

And vnder that they say both prik and stynge
Utere quelitis sed ne videaris abute
Qui bona consumunt cū deest aliena sequuntur
Whan thou hast goten to thy worshyp vse
What auayleth richesse wythout honour
To spende ay good and worshyp to refuse
Is no poynt of proffyt nor of socour
Therfore that thou hast goten wyth treWe labour
Consume not in mysuse lest thou doo a mys
Ofte he nedyth of other that wasted hath his
Fac tibi pro penis mortem non esse timendam
Que bona si non est finis tamen illa bonorum
Enprynte my child ay herby in thy mynde
That thou be not of deth so sore a drad
Whiche shal the from wrtchidnes vnbynde
Where in thy lyf so longe thou hast forth lad
A lyf peraventure to god and may ful lad
The whiche though she be not to al proffytable
Yet she maketh an ende clothe of lad and able
Uxoris linguam si frugi esse velis memento
Namqz malum nil velle pati nec posse tacere
Thy wyues wordes thou suffer and take in gre
Whan it auayleth forbeyde it may
Ful ofte that of gods prudence is she
And most to be alowed thies is no nay
Suffre her than and hyr conceyt assay
For it is hard whey thou may not be stylle
Ne yet to suffre hir thou may eke haue wylle
Diligo non egra cauos pietate parentes

Nec matrem offendas dum vis bonus esse parenti

Goodes that ben yeuen the of nature
They come to the of thy progēnytours
Therfore my chyldy with al thy force and cure
Look thou loue hem and cherisshe at al houris
Fer they fostred the & kept in youth from shouris
Thy moder my dere chyldy yet in especial
Yf thou do wele neuer offende at al

Resorte vsorte and hyder wardy the releue
My mayster now here is an holsome eyre
For your auayle to this place retreue
Where as for moralite sprynging floures feyre
And sote ful plesantly do they repeyre
Gadre of hem and make a chaplet or a gay
And rest thou a whyle right in thys herbere
Beholdy wel and see what thyng is to your pay

Incipit liber quartus

S Eruam quicūqz cupis deducere vitam
Nec vicijs hērere aim que moribus obstūt

What wyght that list to lyue in sykernesse
His lyf and his sowle to kepe fro th encumbraūce
Of vyces the whiche & good thewes expresse
Be ay at stryf come nere & geue attendaunce
Thise preceptis kepe wele in remembraunce
Enrollyng hem and pryntyng in your mynde
And so to lyue the menes shal ye fynde

Despice diuicias si vis animo esse beatus

Quas qui suscipiunt mendicant semper auari
The soule talent of riches my chyldy eschewe
And resemble thou neuer grudy tantalus
Whos etak in hunger is alwey nesse
Amonge the feyr apples delicious
No water swete quenchith his thrust . right thus
To vilayns swalowe of couetyse
Loo al this worldy nought can ner suffyse
Comoda nature nullo tibi tempore deerunt
Si contentus es tueris quod postulat usus
With resonable fedyng be thou content
As in diete a man sholdy neuer ouer charge
Hym self for wyth surfet many men ben shent
For theyr receytes ben to grete andy large
Men seen al day that litel bote or barge
Wol drenche anon whan it is ouer freyght
Cherisse euer nature wyth none ouer weyght
Cum sis incautus nec rem ratione gubernas
Noli fortunam que non est dicere ceram
Yf thy thynge the happe to mysgouerne
Without reason or ony pouydence
Than myn owne chyldy of me thys lesson lerne
Say not it was by fortune suche eyrnce
To make but wyte it thyn owne negligence
For fortune may neuer compelle the
Thy good to spende but at thy libertee
Dilige denarium sed parce dilige formam
Quam nemo sanctus nec honestus captat habere
Loue thou the peny as for thy chuesaunce

Not for the quoyne to horde it vpon hepe
For of the pryncr was made the ordonaunce
Not for ỹ cofres it ſholdy be ſtylle andy ſlepe
But that it ſholdy ay ſherr amonge the peple & kepe
Jn theyr eſchaunge & Who that kepyth hit Jnne
As for the fourme is ay ſubget to ſynne

Cum tueris locuples corpus curare memento
Eger diues habet nūmos ſz non habet ipſum

Whan thou haſt plente and art ꝑcunyal
I mene Whan thou haſt grete ſuffyſaunce
Of money foyſon and helpe but ſmal
Than ſpende thy money and thy ſelf auaunce
Kepe neuer the coyne and lyue ỹ greuaunce
The ſike hath ſiluer and ful grete exceſſe
But of hym ſelf he hath no ſikernesſe

Uerba cum tueris diſcens aliquando magiſtri
Fer patris imperium cū verbis exit in iram

Though ſumtyme thou ſuffre the grete ſharpnes
Of betynge yet ay thy mayſters chaſtiſement
Take wel ỹ gre Wyth humble lo Wlines
Sith it is doon but al ỹ good entente
Jn cauſe to lerne and Wyſedom for to hent
Al though his Wordes ſoWne ful of Jre
Yet ſuffre thou the talent of that fyre

Res age que prolūt curſus vitare memento
Jn quibus error inelt nec ſpes elt certa laboris

Alſo my child thou ſhalt the ay occupye
To Werke thynges that bey proffytable
But look thou neuer thy Wyttes applye

To thynges that may not be auaylable
To kepe a thynge that is not profytable
By wyt or ſtrengthe it is grete errour
Diſpayrid hope is the ende of ſuche labour
Quod donare potes gratis concede roganti
Nam recte facile bonis in parte lucrolū eſt
Whan thou ſhalt yeue than yeue in frendly wyſe
Frendly content thou a prayer or a requeſt
For thynge yeuen by tyme is yeuen twiſe
Suche gladſom chere maketh yeftes richeſt
Who that yeueth gladly & ſone yeueth is beſt
Loo no thyng better may thyng conquere
Than a may to lene that he may forbere
Quod tibi ſuſpectum eſt confeſtim dicere quid ſit
Namq; ſolent primo que cūt neglecta nocere
Whan vpon a thyng thou haſt a coniecture
As in thy conceyt holdyng in ſuſpect
To diſcoure that anon do thy cure
For at the firſt whan ſuche thynge is vnkeet
That ſholde ſelde after his eaſy to correct
A thyng that at the firſt is nought ſet by
Is often tymes ſene to greue fynally
Cum te detinent veneris dampnoſa voluptas
Indulgere gule noli que veneris amica eſt
And whan thou art dyſpoſed inwardly
To venus actes than expreſſe thy corage
Suffre not thy fleſſh than to luſtelye
For grete diete maketh thy fleſſh outrage
Where as meſure myght cauſen it to aſſuage

And glotenye is clepyd the chyef pwmetrice
Ledyng the flesshe ay to wantonesse and vice
Cum tibi proponas aialia cuncta timere
Unum precipue hiem plus esse timendum
The rampant lyon and the tigre felle
The Jwes boor the hounde ful of enuye
And many mo bestis than here nedeth to telle
Moy dredy ful sore and eke theyr tyrannye
And wele they do but yet oon beest espye
That is a fore al other moost especial.
Man is the beest that thou moost drede shal
Cum tibi prevalide fuerint in corpore vires
Hac sapias aio sic tu poteris vir fortis haberi
The vertue that is callyd fortitude
Stondeth al in the strengthe bodely
As to be Jwes myghty stronge and rude
But in the soule it must be sikerly
Neuertheles yf thou wylt thy sowle fortefye
And hym wythin a queynte wyth sapyence
Treuly than shalt thou be stronge in existence
Auxilium a notis petito si forte laboras
Nec quisquã melior medicus quam fidus amicus
What thyng in erthe that thou shalt take on honde
And thy supporte shal be in frendlynesse
No straunge wyght on lyue so nygh the wol stonde
As thy knowen frende my chyld this is expresse
Of the straunger hast thou no sikernesse
For whan al other ben for to seche
The feithful knowen frend can best be thy leche

Cum sis ipse nocens moritur cui victima pro te
Stultitia est in mortem alterius sperare salutem
The deth of bestis that ben vnreasonable
Mo by custume and right of sacrifise
To pourge the its no seth greable
Trust not also to gete thy reprise
For they that trusten so ben ful vnwyse
By deth of bestis god wol not quemed be
And a man abyde stylle in his iniquyte
Cum tibi vel locum vel fidum queris amicum
Non tibi fortuna est wis q vita petenda
Whan thou wold chese a frende for trustynesse
Of his fortune make none enquysytaunce
For fortune is moder of chaungeablenesse
But aske of his vertus and his gouernaunce
For that is prouedy of gretter suffisaunce
Than ware of fortune that is casuelle
For lyf of man his fortune with eyerelle
Utere quesitis opibus fuge nomen auari
Quid tibi diuicie prosūt si pauper habendas
Vse wel the richesse that thou hast of queste
Of auarice the wyckedy fame eschewe
Let not thy good lye ay stoppyd in thy cheste
Kepe not thy tresour and stuf ay closedy in melwe
Suche olde tresour wol make thy shame nelwe
What profyteth plente and gurte tresure
And in poueste a wrecche alwey to endure
Si famam seruare cupis dum viuis honestam
Hac fugias aio que tūt mala gaudia vite

My ſone yf thou deſyre to reioyſe thy fame
In honeſte whyle thou lyueſt here
Eſchewe thynge that may cauſen thy ſhame
And lycowous luſtes muſt be leyde on here
And eke thynges fele that ful ioyous appere
Thy worldes ioye is ofte ful defectyf
Be ware of ioye that lettith thy good lyf
Cum lapſas aīo noli irridere ſenectam
Nam quoquoqz ſene puerilis ſenſus in ille eſt
And ay my chylde aſſay and aduertiſe
That thou neuer ſcorne the grete ſtoupyng age
Thy elder my ſone for no thynge thou diſpiſe
Though al in theyr wyttes they be not ſo ſage
As in theyr yongth ſithe age is outrage
Whan age cometh thies is ſoth certeyn
A man begynneth than to be a chyld ageyn
Diſce aliquid nam cū ſubito fortuna recedit
Ars remanet vitam qz bis non deſerit vnquam
Enforce thy wyttes ſum what for to lere
Acqueynte the wyth cunnyngz for it is ſure
Yf fortune chaunge and powere appere
Who that is cunnyng is likly to recure
Clunyng and crafte remayne euer and endure
And by theym a man may ſone releue
Whan fortune hath caſt hym to myſchieue
Prolpicito cūcta tacitus quod quilqz loquatur
Sermo bim mores ælat et iudicat idem
Be ſtille in ſalence wyth good aduyſydneſſe
Tarye my chylde til other haue ſayde

So ſhalt thou lerne ſum What of ſtedfaſtneſſe
Lete neuer thy tonge ſodeynly be Vnkyd
Fer that myght the of haſtyneſſe abayde
By mannys Worde his maner Wol be ſhewd
By Worde eke is knowen the Wyſe from the lewde
Exerce ſtudium quamuis paruo peris artem
Ut cura ingenium lic et manus adiuuat vſum
Though of cunnyng thou haue ful grete
Enforce the ay my chylde yet to lerne more
The ſoule it is that muſt be thy treaſure
Replenyſſhe here With Vertues treſour and ſtore
Vſe maketh maſtrie Vſe thou ay cũnyng therfore
Vſe helpeth art and cure helpyth Wyt
Than Vſe and cure to gedre muſt be knyt
Multum venturi ne cures tempora fati
Non metuit mortem qui ſcit contemnere vitam
The body from the ſoule ſhal haue diſſeuerance
Deth is the ende comune of euery Wyght
Charge not therfore of dethis chaunce
The tribute of deth muſt thou pay of right
But yet of deth ſhalt thou ſet but light
Yf by this lif thou ſet right nought expreſſe
The Whiche is ay ful of Woo and Wretchidneſſe
Diſce ſed a doctis indoctus ipſe docendo
Propaganda eſt eternum rey doctrina bonarum
Lerne ay of the Wyſe & teche the vnclunyng
For it is Vertue and at al tyme cõmendable
To encreſe doctryne thrugh ſuche cõmenyng
Yt is eke alWey a dede of god charitable

Bothe to lerne and to teche it is ful greable
Doctryne helpeth vertue euermore oy lyue
Whiche ne were doctryne sone from vs Wold sliue
Hoc bibe quod potis si tu vis viuere sanus
Morbi causa mali namq; est quecūq; voluptas
Drynke not to moche more than thou may here
Reule wel ay thy self wyth the bridel of mesure
To moche drynke wol thy body noye and dere
For surfet is euermore of helth vnsure
And mesure makith men in helth to endure
What man is ruled after lustes vile
In good astat he may abyde no while
Laudaris quodcūq; palam quodcūque probaris
Hoc vide ne rursus leuitatis crimine damnes
And yf it hap the my childe in audience
A thyng to prayse be ware that thou not blame
Efte agayn right the same in presence
Yf thou dispreyse cōmende not eke the same
Of suche trauerse must nedes rise shame
To preyse nowe and efte to blame expresse
Je is a signe of grete vnstedfastnes
Tranquillis rebus que sūt aduersa caueto
Rursus in aduersis melius sperare memento
When thou lyuest here right at thyn owne ease
In al thyn herte ioye rest and prosperite
Thynke yet parcas that prosperite may sese
For worldly welth standeth neuer in sikerte
And as sone when powerte or aduersite
Assauteth the yet falle thou neuer in dispayre

Thynke ay in thy self goody fortune may repaire
Discere non cesses cum sapiencia crescat
Rara datur longo prudencia temporis vsu
It is ful fayr my child to be prudent
And wyse look that thou lerne fast therfore
To lerne ay my sone to thyn entente
For by care and besynesse wysdam is the more
Wysdam is she that may not be forbore
The rare prudence that follies nyce refuse
Cay neuer be had but by proesse and vse
Parce laudato nam quem tu sepe probaris
Una dies qualis fuerit monstrabit amicus
Be waar also that thou neuer enhaunce
In thy laude or prayssyng a wyght to hye
For thou maist haue cause eft to disauaunce
Thy fame but ay thy prayssyng modefye
For oon a day thou shalt ful wel espye
Whether he be frende that frendly semyth
For al be no frendes that men demyth
Ne pudeat que nescieris te velle doceri
Sane aliquid laus est culpa est nil discere velle
Be not a shamyd also my child to lere
That thou canst not for it is but a tetche
Of folye nought to desyre doctryne to here
For wele is hym that to cūnyng may stretche
For cūnyngles a man is but a wretche
Therfore to clime moche it is right cōmendable
And elle nought to clime it is most reprouable
Cum venere et bacho lis est et uincta voluptas

Quod iustum est animo complectere & fuge lites
Venus is ay redy to al her actes byle
Whan that bachus hath hyr in largesse
Through the tresour of hir hete and feruent fire
Therfore my child thyn appetit thou represse
In Wynes hote do thou neuer to grete excesse
Drynke nomore than for the soule is expedyent
Eschewe strif and ay Wyth mesure be content
Dimittos animo taciturs vitare memento
Quo flumen est placidum forsan latet alcior vnda
The soleyn styl man oft menyth fraude & gyle
Of suche a man eschewe ay the companyr
For the stille man compassyth other Whyle
Within his secret falsshede and trecherye
In flodes stylle is Water depe and hye
For often tymes betyde vnhappy chaunce
In stormes softe semyng to thy plesaunce
Cum tua fortuna verum tibi displicet vni
Alterius specta quo sis discrimine peior
With thy fortune Whan thou art dyscontent
And canst not take in gre thyn aduenture
Beholde about and sele in thyn aduysement
Holde they that Whilom Were of goodes more sure
Than thou and more likly in Welth tendure
Bothe for bounte fauour and eke noblesse
And yet sodeynly they haue falle in to Wretchydnesse
Quod potes id tempta nam litius carpere remis
Tutius est multo quam velū tendere in altum
Attempte the thyng so as thou mayst suffyse

Passe neuer thy myght here neuer to hygh a sayle
For there is perel yf that the storme aryse
Tereyn my chylde this is Wythout fayle
The vessel smal is at ful grete auayle
Whan that Wyth oore to londe he may a reche
Whan the sayles hygh ful ofte goon to Wreche
Contra hiem iustum praue contendere uoli
Semper eni deus iniustas vlciscitur iras
Agayn the trewe iust mā braule thou neuer ne stryue
For vnto god aboue that is grete displesaunce
Trust this trewly there is no man here on lyue
That to the iust may doth dere or greuaunce
But at the last god Wol take vengeaunce
Therfore herof it is reason eche man to take
For the right Wys man of god is neuer forsake
Exceptis opibus uoli meritre dolendo
Sed gaude pocius si te contingat habere
Yf extorcion or of ony mysauenture
Haue plukked at the and made the thredbare
Of richesse yet do thou ay thy force & cure
To be mery and eschewe thought and care
For flickeryng thought is a foule snare
Come not therin fortune is vnstable
After pouerte richesse is preignable
Est iactura grauis qz sūt amictere dampnis
Sunt quedam qz flere decet pacienter amicum
Yt is harme thy goodes to forgoo
That hen in hand With force and violence
But yet my chyld thou muste considere Who

And what he is that doth suche offence
Yet betwene frende & foo haue ay a difference
For in some cas thou ought a frend forbere
And elle suffre hym though he noye and dere
Tempora longa tibi noli promittere vite
Quodcūqz ingrederis sequitur mors corporis vmbrā
Be not sure that thou shalt lyue here longe
A wight shal dye al be it that he be loth or leef
And as the olde so doth the yonge elle amonge
Deth stelith ay on as doth a pryue theef
For ageyn deth men may fynde no releef
She is aboute ay to make a fynal dyuorse
And foloweth eche day the shadowe of thy corse
Thure deum placa vitulum liue cedat aratro
Non cedis placare deum dum cede litatur
Worshyp god with al thy puyssaunce
With hert entier & swete smellyng ensence
Suche sacrifise is good to his pleasaunce
Of the calues smale that neuer dyd offence
Though thou hem slee the bloody may not dyspence
With the lete hem growe & shynlie in the plough
Thy trewe hert ay to god is suffisaunce is ynough
Cede locū lelius fortune cede potenti
Ledere qui potuit aliquando prodelle valebit
Yeue place to hym that exceedyth thy myght
Though thou be hurt it may proffyte par chaunce
And selde auayleth ony man to fyght
Ageyn suche oon that passyth his puyssaunce
Though al it greue nowe efte it may auaunce

For ofte is ſene that after grete duraſſe
The myghty man is ful of gentilleſſe
Cum quid peccaris caſtiga te ipſe ſubinde
Vulnera dum ſanas dolor eſt uiedicina doloris
After thy ſurfet and thy grete offence
Chaſtiſe thy ſelf correct that is amys
Redreſſe the to good rule amende thy negligence
And ſorowe for ſynne a very medcyne is
Repente the ſore than art thou ſauf I wys
For phyſik ſeyth my ſone I the enſure
A byter drynke the ſharpe ſekneſſe may cure
Dāpnaris nunquam poſt longum tempus amicū
Mutauit mores ꝛ pugnera prima memento
Yf thou haue founde good frendſhyp in a wyght
Longe a goo ꝛ yet though he begyn to chaunge
Diſpeyre hym not may abyde not in oon plight
For ſumtyme was lordſhip ther nowe is graunge
The worldes cours is wonder queynt and ſtraunge
But though as nowe the man is ver vnkynde
Yet is olde frendſhyp remembred ay in mynde
Gracior officiū quo ſis mage carior eſto
Ne nomen ſubeas quod dicitur officiarii
Though it be the in offyce to be ſet
Than be thou gentil and gracious to other men
That they may repute a goodly is met
With offyce and ſo good name ſhal rey
Aboute of the but aſſure the beſt when
The officer is vnbounde than ſaith the preeſt
Nowe wold to god that this may were offycers

Suspectus caueas ne sis miser omnibz horis
Nam timidis et suspectis aptissima mors est
Be not suspect that is a vycyed theche
The suspect may vyth coward ferfulnesse
In his kyuyng is but a verry vrethe
Mys is a mys but al fr wold redresse
He demeth fals and sayleth hertlinesse
By fals contryt set in malencolye
Sleth hym anon thus deth endeth his folye
Cum seruos tuetis proprios mercatus in vsus
Et famulos dicas hoies tamen esse memento
Yf thou haue men vythoute fredom and liberte
Suche as ley clepedy men of bondage
Notvithstandyng they be vnder thy captyuyte
Yet honour suche and ouer hem be not to outrage
Yf they be holden vnder thy vorldly seruage
For al they be bound yet verrey men they be
That god hath made theym men yet ay remembre the
Quam primum capiendi tibi est occasio prima
Ne turpius quereas que iam neglexeris ante
Thi first fortune receyue vyth redinesse
Refuse it not though it be skant & smal.
It is vel better in gree to take the lesse
Than to refuse it and after fayle of al
Yefter of fortune take hem ay as they fal
Refuse hem nov and after thou shalt haue ned
Therfore it is to take vhan me profre and bed
Morte carentia noli gaudere malorum
Felices obiunt quorum sine crimine vita

Reioyse the neuer my chylde in al thy lif
The sodeyn deth of a cursid man & wreche
Whan he is ded the soule may not relefe
From payn to ioy the soule may not reche
The fendes holde ay sore that they may lieteche
Therfore who that lyueth iustly ful wel doth he
For his soule is ay ful of feliate

Cum coniunx tibi sit nec res et fama laborat
Vitandum ducas inimicū nomen amica

Yf thou haue a wyf in assuraunce
Trust hyr wel and loue hyr inwardlye
With hert with thought with al thy affiaunce
And be thou neuer infect with suspect Jelesie
Yf no fault be in hir or that thou can espye
Yet yf thy frend tel the suche is the fame
She is a frende and she no thyng to blame

Cum tibi contigerit studio cognoscere multa
Hac discas multa vita nescire decori

Whan thrugh studye and grete exercise
Thou hast mocke & hast grete kunnyng
Yet ay do thy diligence in the most besy wyse
To purchase more for it is an holsom thyng
For to grete honour cūnyng may the bryng
And eschewe thou neuer daily to be taught
For without techyng cūnyng may not be caught

Carmina vix urbis nudis me scribere versus
Hec veritas sensus erat continuare meos

Yf thou ought meruayl or lust to muse
In naked wordes why my versus thus I write

In no wyse trewly I may me better excuse
Than say my wyt so dul is and vnparfite
Which arteth me thus rudely for to endyte
By ewo and ewo my metre for to kinyt
No thyng actuseth me but symplenes of wyt
Now I haue gadered floures to your list
Tasteth therin for they be preseruatyf
Holdeth theym fast & bere them in your fist
For the pestylence eire which is infectif
I counceyl you & I iepard my lyf
That ye shul lede your lif in sikernesse
And eke atteyne to moche worthynesse
This mane I to you vnder protection
Of your good grace What tyme ye rede
Or elles haue in this mater inspection
As it bodeth that ye wol do in dede
Than dar I afferme without drede
Ye shul astreue and be ful vertuous
Here haue I fond that shal ye guyde and lede
Streyght to good fame & leue you in hyr hous

Explicat Thus